

Serial No. 10/634,677

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A multifunctional pushbutton switch with comprising

a plurality of pushbutton switching units having actuation tappets and pushbutton surfaces, said pushbutton surfaces that are being arranged close to each other in a common operating surface, especially for a vehicle steering wheel with

a common switch housing with guiding means for movably guiding said actuation tappets in said switch housing, in which actuation tappets of the pushbutton switching units are movably guided, and

a cap mounted onto the said common switch housing housing, the said cap comprising being made by means of a two-component injection molding technique of a relatively rigid plastic frame with one cutout window window, whose said one cutout window corresponding in shape and size correspond to the circumference of said pushbutton surfaces surfaces, and of a

said cap further comprising a silicone membrane stretched over the said one cutout window window and an outer surface of said silicone membrane forming said common operating surface.

Claim 2 (original) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 1, wherein guide walls of the switch

housing extend all the way to the inner surface of the silicone membrane between the actuation tappets.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 1, wherein the actuation tappets are pressed resiliently against the inner surface of the silicone membrane and are ~~retained by stop members~~ not limited in their movement to their unactuated resting positions by stop members.

Claim 4 (original) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 3, wherein the stop members are formed by projections that are molded onto the actuation tappets and that interact with abutment surfaces on the housing that face away from the silicone membrane.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ the said common operating surface formed by the outer surface of the silicone membrane has an altogether convex curvature.

Claim 6 (original) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 1, wherein the actuation tappets have a curvature or indentation that can be felt through the silicone membrane and that is located on the operating surface that lies against the inner surface of the silicone membrane.

Claim 7 (original) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 1, wherein the plastic frame and the silicone membrane are joined with an inter-material bond.

Claim 8 (original) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 7, wherein the silicone membrane engages around the outer circumference of the plastic frame with a shape fit.

Claim 9 (new) A multifunctional pushbutton switch comprising

a plurality of pushbutton switching units having actuation tappets and pushbutton surfaces, said pushbutton surfaces being arranged close to each other and adjacent a common operating surface,

a common switch housing with guiding means for movably guiding said actuation tappets in said switch housing,

a cap mounted onto said common switch housing, said cap comprising a relatively rigid plastic frame with at least one cutout window, said at least one cutout window corresponding in shape and size to the circumference of at least one of said pushbutton surfaces,

said cap further comprising a silicone membrane stretched over said at least one cutout window, an outer surface of said silicone membrane forming said common operating surface and, said cap comprising two components bonded together one component comprising said rigid plastic frame and said other component comprising said silicone membrane.

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Claim 10 (new) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 9, wherein guide walls of the switch housing extend all the way to the inner surface of the silicone membrane between the actuation tappets.

Claim 11 (new) The multifunctional pushbutton switch according to claim 9, wherein the actuation tappets are pressed resiliently against the inner surface of the silicone membrane and are limited in their movement to their unactuated resting by stop members.

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